

## Message Text

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ORIGIN IO-13

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, UN, OCON

SUBJECT: UN WATER CONFERENCE: COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES, SECOND SPECIAL (PREPARATORY) SESSION, JANUARY  
3-7  
BUENOS AIRES FOR WILCOX

FOLLOWING ARE INSTRUCTIONS FOR U.S. DELEGATION TO SUBJECT  
MEETING; (FOR GENERAL BACKGROUND SEE ALSO APPROVED TRAN-  
SITION PAPER ON WATER CONFERENCE, COPY SENT TO SEIFMAN):

1. APPROPRIATE SCOPE OF DISCUSSIONS: PURPOSE OF MEETING  
IS TO DISCUSS CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION, STRUCTURE, MANAGE-  
MENT AND RULES OF PROCEDURE. IT IS NOT TO ADDRESS SUBSTAN-  
TIVE WATER ISSUES OR PROBLEMS. LATTER WOULD INCLUDE EVEN  
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BEGINNING DISCUSSION OF SUCH MATTERS IN ADVANCE OF FORMAL  
OPENING OF CONFERENCE IN MARCH. ACCORDINGLY, U.S. DELE-  
GATION SHOULD OBJECT TO ANY ATTEMPTS TO INTRODUCE SUBSTAN-  
TIVE TOPICS, BASING OBJECTION IN LARGE MEASURE ON COMPLETE  
ABSENCE THUS FAR OF UN DOCUMENTATION. WE HAVE RECEIVED TO  
DATE ONLY PROVISIONAL AGENDA (E/C.7/60) FOR PREPARATORY

SESSION.

2. WATER CONFERENCE AGENDA: ONLY A BROAD FOUR-COMPONENT AGENDA NOW EXISTS. EXPERIENCE AT FIRST PREPCOM SUGGESTS THAT EFFORTS TO DEVELOP DETAILED SUBSTRUCTURE OR TO NARROW SCOPE ARE FRUITLESS. DELEGATION SHOULD SEEK TO ENSURE THAT AGENDA, ALONG PRESENT LINES, MAINTAINS POLICY FOCUS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATED PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE.

3. ORGANIZATION OF WORK: A MAJOR CONCERN OF THE MEETING WILL BE HOW TO ORGANIZE THE WORK OF THE CONFERENCE (I.E., WHAT COMMITTEES TO ESTABLISH). AT THE FIRST PREPCOM IT WAS AGREED TENTATIVELY TO MAKE PROVISION FOR A PLENARY AND TWO COMMITTEES, WHICH COULD RUN CONCURRENTLY IF NEEDED. THE SUBJECT MATTER FOCUS OF THESE COMMITTEES IS YET TO BE DECIDED. THE U.S. HAS NO FIRM VIEWS ON THIS MATTER. HOWEVER, WE WANT TO ENSURE THAT, REGARDLESS OF THE BROAD MANDATES ASSIGNED TO THE COMMITTEES, THEY COLLECTIVELY COVER THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF MAJOR WATER PROBLEM AREAS IN A RATIONAL MANNER. THE DELEGATION SHOULD OPPOSE ANY EFFORT TO HAVE ONE COMMITTEE RESERVED FOR THE MORE TECHNICAL MEMBERS OF DELEGATIONS.

4. RULES OF PROCEDURE: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY UNRESOLVED ISSUES AND ARE PREPARED TO ACCEPT A SIMPLE MAJORITY VOTING FORMULA. IF THE MATTER OF PARTICIPATION OF NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS ARISES, THE DELEGATION SHOULD URGE MAXIMUM PARTICIPATION BASED ON THE RELEVANT EXPERTISE AND EXPERIENCE THEY CAN BRING TO BEAR. THE PROPOSED U.S. OPENING STATEMENT ADDRESSES THE QUESTION OF NGO PARTICIPATION.

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PATION.

5. HOST COUNTRY ARRANGEMENTS: A REPORT WILL BE PRESENTED BY THE ARGENTINE DELEGATION. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ANY NEW INFORMATION ON PUBLIC SAFETY PRECAUTIONS, PROVISION FOR NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE STATUS OF FOREIGN PARTICIPATION IN THE TECHNICAL SEMINARS BEING ORGANIZED BY THE GOA.

6. PLANS OF OTHER COUNTRIES: DELEGATION SHOULD IDENTIFY FROM BOTH PLENARY AND CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS THE VIEWS OF OTHER COUNTRIES ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE THEY ATTACH TO THE CONFERENCE, THEIR EXPECTATIONS FOR ITS OUTCOME, AND THE LEVEL AND COMPOSITION OF DELEGATIONS THEY INTEND TO SEND. DELEGATION SHOULD WORK CLOSELY WITHIN WEO GROUP TO OBTAIN BROAD EXCHANGE OF VIEWS AND PLANS, PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO WEO ATTITUDES REGARDING IMPORTANCE OF UNIFIED DEVELOPED COUNTRY PROPOSALS AND COMMITMENTS AT THE

CONFERENCE, AS WELL AS PRELIMINARY POSITIONS ON SUCH  
ISSUES AS NEW UN INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS IN WATER  
FIELD, POSSIBLE PROPOSAL (BY AFRICANS?) FOR UN FUND FOR  
COMMUNITY WATER SUPPLY, AND HOW TO DEAL WITH INTRODUCTION  
OF BILATERAL WATER DISPUTES AT CONFERENCE.  
ROBINSON

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